

St. Patrick's
Niagara Falls, Ontario
1895 - 1995

St. Patrick's Church

4673 VICTORIA AVENUE

Telephone 416-354-7451

CARMELITE FATHERS

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

L2E 4B8

Dear St. Patrick's Family,

It's a blessing to be a part of our spirited Centennial celebration. Since 1895, our beautiful Gothic Church has graced the City of Niagara Falls. More than seven generations of faith, hope and love are enshrined in the stone and mortar of St. Patrick's.

John Shea has described Church in this way: "Gather the People. Tell the Story. Break the Bread." We come together to hear the Word of the Lord and be fed at His table. Here in this holy place, God touches us in sacrament and worship.

It's not possible to celebrate without remembering all those who have gone before us. Their faith and love and hope are a vital part of our lives, our Church. We are their hopes and dreams. They challenge us to be truly people of God, men and women of faith in our time.

We appreciate all the good that this beautiful church building represents and we are inspired to go forward into a second century, confident that with God's help, we will be the people He desires us to be.

Gratefully in Christ,

f. Ben Hogan
Fr. Ben Hogan, O.Carm



NONCIATURE APOSTOLIQUE

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

St. PATRICK's CHURCH CENTENARY
Niagara Falls

The Church of Saint Patrick will be one hundred years old on December 9, 1995. A day for celebration!

However, when one thinks about "Time", one hundred years may be only a moment as the Church is about to enter its third millennium. Nevertheless, one hundred years can be a long time, at least long enough not to have around the great founders of St. Patrick's Church and to be able to share with them this momentous occasion. Let's remember them in this anniversary as this Church is the fruit of their faith and dedication. Let's also pray God Almighty that the descendants of the great founders may continue along the path of their ancestors with the same courage and faith that shone one hundred years ago and is still shining today.

Thus, in this very special occasion, I humbly join to the Holy Father in his words: "...The future of the world and the Church belongs to the younger generations, in those who, born in this century, will reach maturity in the next, the first century of the new millennium..."

In the occasion of St. Patrick's centenary celebration, as the Representative of His Holiness John Paul II in Canada, and on his behalf, I wish extend to all Parishioners, Spiritual Leaders, and the Carmelite Fathers the Holy Father's Apostolic Blessing.

May Our Lady of the Carmel guide you all and keep you faithful servants of Christ, Her Son.

+ Carlo Curis
Apostolic Nuncio



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August 31, 1995

St. Patrick's Parish, Niagara Falls

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The celebration of the Centennial of your Parish Church is a memorable event in the life of your Community. It is a time to reflect on the history of your parish and the significance of this impressive structure that your forbearers built near the centre of the City of Niagara Falls. It is a time to thank God for their foresight, the zeal and the generosity.

A Catholic Church is a place of worship and prayer. Here the community gathers to celebrate the Eucharist, which is the source and centre of Christian life. Here Jesus Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Altar. Here the Sacraments are celebrated and here the final prayer of the Church is offered over the bodies of the deceased.

The celebration of this Centennial is an occasion for us to thank God for His faithfulness and for inviting us to share His life and His love in our Community.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *John A. O'Mara*

(Most Rev.) John A. O'Mara, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines



Most Reverend John Stephen Knight
Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto

St. Augustine's Seminary
2661 Kingston Road
Scarborough, Ontario M1M 1M3
(416) 261-7207

5 July 1995

Saint Patrick's Parish
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Dear Members of Saint Patrick's:

From 1950 to 1956 I attended Saint Patrick's School and benefited greatly from the close relationship between the school and the parish. Our religious activities as a school were very obviously centred around the parish church.

As you celebrate this year the 100th Anniversary of your church building, you can take great pride in the place this building has not only in the parish community, but in the wider community of Niagara Falls.

Many like myself who have never been members of the parish have a great affection for your parish church. For many of us it is a symbol of God's presence and a symbol of the solidity of our Catholic faith.

May your care and concern for your parish church continue to be a sign of your care and concern for God, for God's people and for those in need in the wider community.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend John Stephen Knight

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Fax: 708/971-0195

August 28, 1995

Dear Parishioners of St. Patrick:

Greetings and congratulations on the centenary of St. Patrick Church!

This jubilee year, commemorating 100 years of worship at St. Patrick Church is indeed a great cause for joy. This church has been a real house of worship and faith, nourishing the hearts and souls of thousands of people over these past 100 years. As it stands at the head of a Queen Street on Victoria Avenue, it is a symbol of hope and peace to the many people who see its beautiful spire and open doors.

The Carmelites have been privileged to share the faith journey of so many of you. Jesus tell us in the gospel wherever two or three are gathered in his name that he is there in our midst. The opportunity to do that on a daily basis has been a source of nourishment and hope for many Carmelites who have served you.

Be assured of the prayers of all the members of our province as you celebrate this important centennial. We trust that in the next 100 years your faith community will continue to welcome all those who seek to be nourished by God's word and sacrament so that they will be strengthened to bring the light of Christ to the world.

May God bless you and Mary keep you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Quinn R. Conners, O. Carm.
Provincial

QRC:dc

Very Reverend Joseph P. O'Brien, O. Carm., V.E.
Episcopal Vicar for Eastern Bergen County

55 Demarest Avenue
Englewood, New Jersey 07631
201 568-0364
201 568-0654 (fax)

Dear Parishioners,

I thank you for letting me share with you the 100th Birthday of the great church of St. Patrick. More important, I thank you for having let me share nine years of your church's extraordinarily wonderful history. They were among the best years of my life.

The corner stone of St. Patrick's Church was laid on June 9, 1895. On it are inscribed in Latin the words: "On the 9th of June, 1895, the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Pope Leo XIII happily ruling the Church, in the reign of Queen Victoria; Kirkpatrick, lieutenant-governor of the Province; George Hanon, mayor of the city and district; Dominic T. O'Malley, rector of the church, this corner stone was laid under the invocation of St. Patrick, the titular patron of the church, by the Very Rev. Joseph McCann, Vicar General, in the absence of the Most Rev. John Joseph Walsh, Archbishop of Toronto."

Since then St. Patrick's church has been the sacred place where God's people have been comforted and challenged by His word, healed and strengthened in the sacraments, supported by the faith and friendship of one another. There is, indeed, much to celebrate in this year of Jubilee.

*Dear Friends, may you continue to grow in the awareness of God's loving kindness. May you always share that kindness with one another. Then the Church of St. Patrick will continue to be the clear **SIGN** of His Presence in Niagara Falls and well beyond. May He bless you kindly!*

With my love,

F. Joe

Very Reverend Joseph P. O'Brien, O. Carm., V.E.

JOB/eh



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
7333 Southside Drive
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40214

October, 1995

Dear Parishioners,

It gives me great pleasure to greet you on the 100th anniversary of the building of St. Patrick's Church. Congratulations and A Happy Anniversary to all of you!

I had the wonderful honor of being at St. Patrick's for twelve years. I count them as the happiest years of my life as a priest. Your spirit of generosity and cooperation in the life of the parish are unmatched. To this day I constantly marvel at the work done by the various organizations in the parish, e.g., St. Vincent dePaul Society, The Catholic Women's League, The Bingo workers, the choir, the Parish Council, etc., etc. Add to that list the zeal of the women and men of the Parish who worked so hard this year to celebrate the anniversary of the building of the parish church. Their work is a monument to the spirit of cooperation that exists at St. Patrick's.

We also have good reason to remember all those countless parishioners over the years who now enjoy the heavenly kingdom. They planted the seeds that has made St. Patrick's such a vibrant parish to this very day.

I want you to know that I remember all of you with great affection. May the Lord be as good to our parish in the next hundred years as He has been in the past.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Bartholomew Larkin, O. Carm.

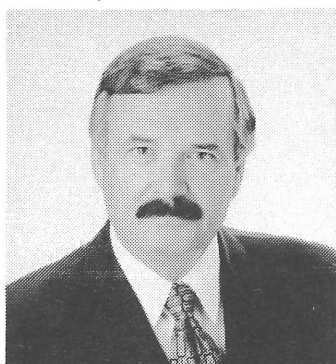


WELCOME

On behalf of City Council and the citizens of Niagara Falls, I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate the Diocese of St. Catharines, the ministry of St. Patrick's Church and their many parishioners on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary. Our community has been fortunate indeed to be anchored both spiritually and physically with the presence of St. Patrick's Church.

It is also my pleasure to welcome all current parishioners as well as past parishioners and the friends of St. Patrick's to the special celebrations being conducted throughout this centennial year. It is our hope that while you are "home", many of you will have an opportunity to reacquaint yourselves with a few of our many attractions and experience the natural charm and beauty we have come to know and love in Niagara.

Special congratulations and thanks go out to the 100th Anniversary Organizing Committee of St. Patrick's Church, the many volunteers and their generous sponsors whose diligent efforts and support have combined to create, what is sure to be, a memorable year.



Mayor Wayne Thomson
& Members of Council



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am delighted to extend my greetings and sincere best wishes to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church on its 100th anniversary.

When such a venerated institution reaches the milestone of one hundred years of dedicated community service, it is certainly cause for celebration. The Church has played an important role in the development of the community and has served as a focal point, both spiritual and social, for countless individuals from all walks of life. No doubt, this occasion will give you cause to reflect upon this Church's unique history and take pride in your spiritual heritage.

I would like to offer my very best wishes to the entire congregation for a joyful celebration. May the coming years be filled with peace and happiness for each of you.

OTTAWA
1995

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OTTAWA, February, 1995

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to Father Ben Hogan and the entire congregation of St. Patrick's Church in Niagara Falls, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

This important milestone signifies a long history of tradition in our community. A tradition which celebrates the endless devotion of so many to their church, recognizes their unselfish involvement in the community and the continuous commitment to making this a better place for us all.

Once more, my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you all.



Gary P. Litterer

GARY PILLITTERI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

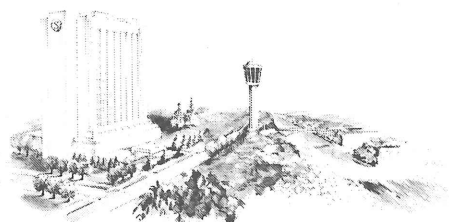
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*We are pleased to
Congratulate the Congregation
of
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on their upcoming Centennial.*

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Ontario

*As the member of Provincial Parliament for Niagara Falls,
I am privileged to extend to you my sincere
congratulations and best wishes
on the occasion of the
One Hundredth Birthday of your parish.*



Bart Maves, MPP
Niagara Falls

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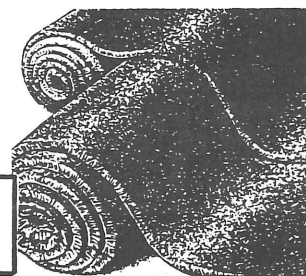


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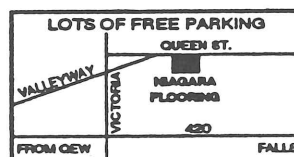
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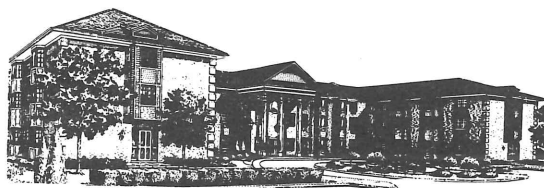
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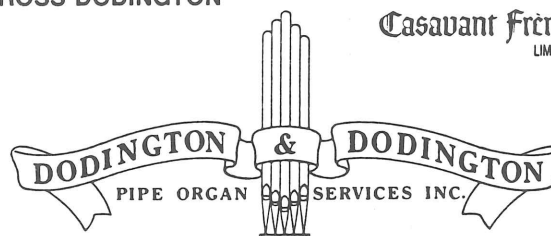
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To St. Patrick's Parish:

*We congratulate you on your Centennial and for 100 years
of Christian service to our Niagara Falls Community.
Our best wishes for continued success.
The Ricci Family and Oakes Inn Staff.*

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A Brief Parish History

In a day when older, historic buildings routinely fall prey to the wrecker's ball for modern, upscale structures or parking lots, St. Patrick's Church is a testimony to those builders of 100 years ago.

It was through the foresight of those early Catholics that such a structure still stands today, at the head of Queen Street on Victoria Avenue.

Although it may be difficult to imagine Victoria Avenue as a dirt road, such was the case in the early days of Niagara Falls. Catholics wishing to attend Mass could not do so in the city, but instead travelled to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where in the early 1800's a sprinkling of Catholic families settled along the Niagara River.

In those years, Father Edward Gordon built the first Catholic Church in the area in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but his vast parish included Niagara Falls, Dundas, Trafalgar and Toronto Gore, where he often rode horseback to say Mass, hear confessions and preach in barns and log huts.

Father Gordon was to leave his mark on the area by having churches built in all of the above places, among them the older part of the present Our Lady of Peace Church on Portage Road, which was completed in 1837.

In 1858, Our Lady of Peace was made a separate parish, but another church was needed in the north end of the then town of Clifton.

The first St. Patrick's Church was built on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Maple Street. The two corner lots were bought by the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Toronto in May, 1858, from Roswell G. Benedict, Charles Pierson and Ira Spaulding.

St. Patrick's became a separate parish in 1863 and in 1875, the care of the parish became the responsibility of the Carmelite Fathers. In January, 1887, Rev. J. Cyril Feehan, O. Carm., was named the young parish's first Carmelite pastor.

Rev. Feehan was succeeded by Rev. Dominic Thomas O'Malley.

At this time, the original church stood on the present site of St. Patrick's School. A long sidewalk led to the small, red brick building, which was set back from Victoria Avenue, almost where the present school now sits.

In 1892, the front part of a new school was built on the lot in front of the original church and the original school, built in 1870, was demolished.

Rev. O'Malley then started his ambitious plans for a new church building.

The building of the structure actually started with the foundation in November, 1894. On Trinity Sunday, June 9, 1895, the cornerstone for the church which has become a landmark in the now city of Niagara Falls was laid amid much pomp and circumstance before people of all denominations.

Branches of the Catholic Men's Benevolent Association from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Niagara Falls, New York, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Merriton met at the CMBA Hall on Bridge Street. Led by the Niagara Falls Brass Band, they marched in a body to the site of the new church. Also attending, bringing the crowd to an estimated 2,000 people, were a massed group of school children who sang for those in attendance.

Under the direction of the Very Rev. Vicar-General, Joseph McCann, the cornerstone, made of Queenston limestone, was filled with documents, historic papers, coins and sketches.

Inscribed on the cornerstone, in Latin, is: "On the 9th of June, 1895, the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Pope Leo XIII happily ruling the church, in the reign of Queen Victoria; Kirkpatrick, lieutenant-governor of the province; George Hanan, mayor of the city and district; Dominic T. O'Malley, rector of the church, this cornerstone was laid under the invocation of St. Patrick, titular patron of the church, by the Very Rev. Jos. McCann, Vicar General, in the absence of Most Rev. John Joseph Walsh, Archbishop of Toronto."

The erection of the building took place quickly, with horses and pulleys hauling the sandstone blocks from a Beamsville quarry into place. It seated 500 people and cost \$30,000. The 150 foot steeple provided the city with its newest landmark.

The bell, which can still be heard through the downtown area, was a gift from the people of the town, with council donating \$100 towards its cost because it was also used for fire-alarm purposes in its early years.

Father O'Malley ended his pastorate in 1897 to be replaced by Father Feehan, who returned to oversee the construction of the rectory between 1897 and June, 1899.

In the early 1920's, a steam-heating plant served both the church and the school, and an addition to the school was made. In 1924, an addition was made to the rectory and a large garage built.

Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking, aside from that of the construction of the church, was the building of the present parish hall, which has served as a recreation building, a meeting place for numerous parish societies, a school and many public dances. Construction started July, 1927 and ended Feb. 8, 1928.

The entire parish worked on the project and a huge dinner and dance, which attracted the largest social gathering in the history of the parish, was held.

Even in the younger days of St. Patrick's, improvements were a necessity. The basement of the parish hall was divided into rooms to provide meeting and working quarters for the Boy Scouts of Canada and an entrance on the north side of the hall was constructed.

A fire in 1943 caused extensive interior damage to the hall, but fortunately, sufficient insurance had been carried and what could have been a catastrophe became a simple minor inconvenience.

To help celebrate St. Patrick's 50th anniversary in 1945, the entire interior of the church was decorated the previous year. There were murals behind the side altars and a new floor was laid throughout the building.

During the next few decades, there was tremendous growth in the city's population and St. Patrick's became not only a religious pillar, but a social gathering place, with weekly dances in the parish hall. The gymnasium was the site of many basketball games and other sporting events and many wedding receptions were held in the lower hall, thanks to a larger kitchen area which aided greatly in on-site food preparation.

As the city's population grew, so did that of St. Patrick's. Many people left Europe after the Second World War and settled in the immediate area. With the construction of the hydro canal in the 1950's, there was again a population explosion, with people of varying nationalities joining the parish.

Partly due to that increase in population, parish leaders looked to the western part of the city for expansion and property was obtained on Thorold Stone Road, where the mission church of Our Lady of the Scapular was begun in 1951.

Catholic educational needs also grew at this time and St. Patrick's School was replaced by a new building and was joined by St. Mary's School on Morrison Street, the former Holy Family School on Palmer Avenue and the former St. Francis School in Glenview.

On Dec. 8, 1965, Pope Paul VI and the bishops of the entire world closed the Second Vatican Council, giving the Church a rebirth in the spirit of the gospels. This meant for more changes to the cosmetic look of St. Patrick's. In 1966, a new marble altar, facing the people, was installed and the Blessed Sacrament moved to the altar to the left of the main altar. The cross with the crucified Christ was replaced by a large statue of the risen Christ.

A large heavy oak lectern was removed and replaced by a smaller one and the side altars were modified. The altar rail was removed and carpet installed.

In 1983, the former Canadian Tire store property at the corner of Huron Street and Victoria Avenue was bought by the church. It has since been landscaped and the hall and church now cover the entire block fronting on Victoria Avenue.

Except for a new slate roof costing \$250,000 and the steeple and roof being repaired, the exterior of the building remains almost the same today as when it was built, although there have been other changes to the interior.

The red carpet installed in the 1960's was replaced by a green carpet in the 1980's and the windows were modified to help save heat loss. In 1990, an organ from a church in St. Catharines was donated by the parishioners. It cost \$50,000 for refurbishment and to shore up the choir loft to carry the added weight of the new organ once installed.

The marble altar was replaced this year by a wooden one which previously served as the base for the baptismal font.

During its first 100 years St. Patrick's, through its religious, sports and social activities, touched the lives of untold numbers of people in Niagara Falls. Different groups have helped feed the hungry, clothe the needy and provide shelter for the homeless, even until today.

It was for that reason, that people of all denominations and nationalities were invited to join the parishioners in celebrating the first 100 years.

The centennial celebrations began with a special Mass on Dec. 9, 1994. That was followed by a gala St. Patrick's Day Dance in March, which was a total success.

Friday, July 14, a highly-successful Get Re-Acquainted Night took place in the church hall, with a memorabilia display and many other memories shared by the number of people who attended. The line to enter the hall, in fact, stretched out to Victoria Avenue at many times during the evening.

Saturday, July 15 was Homecoming Day and was marked by face-painting, souvenir sales, games for the youngsters and the continuing memorabilia display. With a warm wind blowing, an outdoor Mass was held in the shadow of the great church, with a number of political dignitaries and former pastors and pastoral associates attending. Later in the evening a street dance was held.

The celebrations continue with another dinner-dance scheduled to take place Saturday, October 28 before the year-long celebration officially is to come to an end Saturday, Dec. 9 with a solemn Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John O'Mara, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Again, however, amidst the grand celebrations of the centennial year, there was some sadness with the passing of former pastor Father Brian McCulloch. Another former pastor, Father Joseph O'Brien, perhaps spoke for the entire parish when he said of his predecessor at the funeral Mass "As long as the cross on the steeple of our Church casts a shadow at the intersection of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue, Father Brian will be known as the true Father of St. Patrick's."

That mission started 100 years ago, with a great Gothic structure in a parish surrounded by farms and a dirt road known as Victoria Avenue, continues today. The mission continues into a new century with trust in the presence of Christ the Good Shepard, who promised, "I will be with you all days, even to the end of the world."

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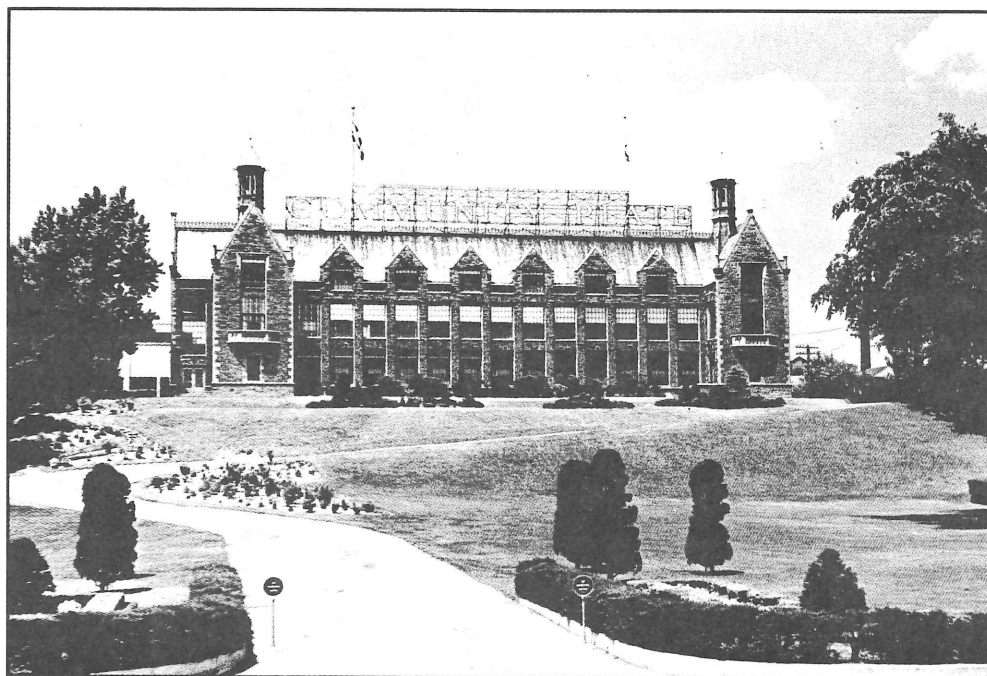
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The Oneida Community Plate Factory - 1917

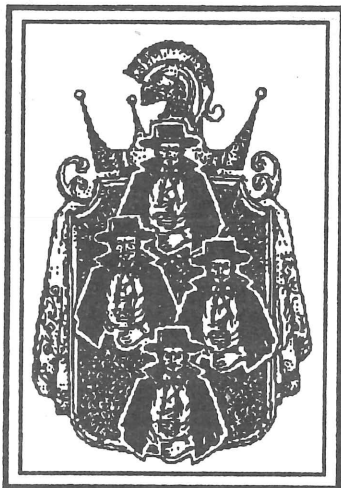
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Esther Quinlan: A Lifetime at St. Patrick's

by Frank Quinlan



My mother was born 12 years after the founding of St. Patrick's and has been a parishioner for all of her 88 years. The church -- the building, the ceremonies, the priests and the people -- have played a central role in her family history. She was baptized there in 1907 and married in 1932, saw grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, and husband buried from there, and had four children baptized, receive First Communion and confirmed. Almost all her life has been lived within sound of the church bells. Although her sight is dimmed now and her step uncertain, with the help of friends and family she regularly attends the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass.

She was born Esther Patricia Farrell, the ninth of 10 children of Thomas Farrell and Catharine Newman, in a frame house that still stands at the southwest corner of Second and Maple. She married Michael J. (Mike) Quinlan and in 1939 moved into the house they had built for them on Valley Way. Since my father's death in 1986 she has lived there alone. Her association with St. Patrick's has helped her keep in touch. Although she can't see well, her hearing is good, and she is gratified when old friends and pupils approach to say hello after Mass. She has someone read the parish bulletin to her weekly to keep track of who is sick and needs prayers.

Her association with St. Patrick's School is also strong. She taught there and at several other city separate schools part-time for 20 years until retirement in 1967. She seems to remember all her former pupils and they have not forgotten her.

The years glide by so quickly that, like most of us, she recalls only a few things from her childhood. Of the early years, when St. Patrick's was a young, predominantly Irish parish, she remembers rising early (Masses were at 6 and 8 a.m.), walking to church on wooden sidewalks, squeezing into the family pew (a four-seater, all her family could afford), funerals held from the home, with the priest visiting the house for prayers and the hearse arriving the next morning to transport the deceased to church, Sunday school, and processions -- lots of processions.

"We had processions for 40 hours' devotions," she recalls, "and at the beginning and end of May to celebrate Mary, Queen of Heaven. Girls in twos carrying baskets of flowers filed around the church ahead of the priest and the Blessed Sacrament, scattering the flowers as we went. It was all very pretty. I still have the white dress I used to wear."

Sunday school was another matter. Even though all St. Patrick's School pupils took catechism during the week, Sunday classes with the pastor, Rev. Bernard Fink O'Carm, were mandatory to the end of grade 8. She remembers only two things about these classes: Father Fink was very stern, and he took snuff.

She recalls the strictness and propriety of those days: "People dressed up for church, no one dared talk during services, and women had to wear hats. I wore a straw hat that my mother covered in velvet for the winter. Only priests and altar-boys were allowed inside the communion rail; even couples being married had to stand outside it."

"We all had to fast in Lent and abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children weren't supposed to eat sweets. During Lent my younger brother Harold and I saved candies or cookies in a baking powder can, which we opened regularly to see how much we'd collected. Easter was the occasion of a big family dinner, but there was no Easter Bunny or chocolate."

Like many of my own generation, she remembers the long line-ups for confession at Easter and Christmas and standing during the reading of the Passion. She used to try, usually without success, to stand perfectly still during the reading, for doing this was said to free a soul from Purgatory. Fasting before Communion was rigidly observed: my mother remembers a boy in my brother's 1944 First Communion class who absentmindedly ate a peanut he found in his pocket. When he mentioned this to the good sisters, he had to delay receiving the sacrament until later -- by himself.

But change was on the way. During the sixties, after Vatican II, the church was closed for two years for extensive renovations and Mass was said in the parish hall. "That was the time Fr. Brian (McCulloch) threw all our statues out," my mother remarked, but she adjusted to the changes. The banks of flickering vigil lights also disappeared, leaving her older sisters, Kathleen and Bertha, without their longstanding volunteer chore of cleaning out the leftover candle wax.

Church financing methods have also changed. Pew rentals were discontinued long ago, much to the relief of my mother's family: "Some of us always had to sit in someone else's pew, and we sometimes got disapproving looks," she said. "For a while working people paid a set amount a year. I remember my father and older sister paying \$26, so it must have been a long time ago. Later there was a door collection of a dime a person."

With the migration from parish and city of succeeding generations, my mother is the only Farrell family member left from all those years who still is a parishioner of St. Patrick's. She cannot imagine moving to another church. Her knowledge of the people -- who their parents were, what they worked at, who married whom, what happened to their children -- is encyclopedic. She represents a lifelong identification with her parish rarely found anymore.

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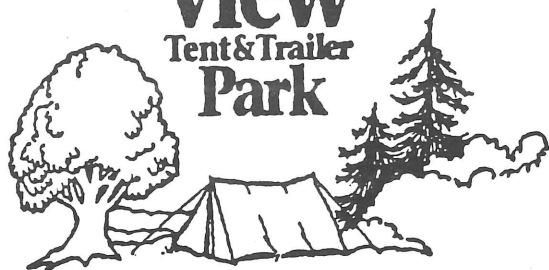
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A Family Tradition at St. Patrick's

On June 9, 1895, Andrew Rosa represented the City of Niagara Falls at the laying of the cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church.

The deep commitment of Andrew and Elizabeth Rosa to the parish continues to find expression today, with many of their descendants still parishioners of St. Patrick's.

Their daughter, Helen Rosa, married Gerald McNamara, who was also a member of the first Niagara Falls Separate School Board when the only school in the system was St. Patrick's.

Their two grandsons, Fr. Tony McNamara, son of Jack and Mae McNamara, and Fr. Craig Morrison, son of Dan and Leonore (McNamara) Morrison, have entered the order of the Carmelites.

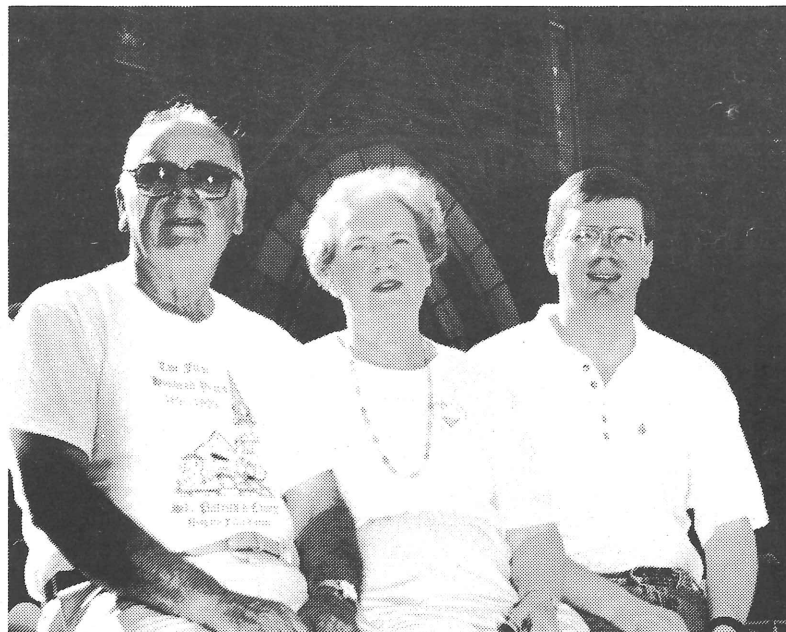
Fr. Tony McNamara, ordained May 24, 1969, has served as associate pastor of St. Patrick's and pastor of Our Lady of Peace. He is currently pastor of St. John Vianney Church in Barrie, Ont. Fr. Craig Morrison was ordained Oct. 17, 1987 at St. Patrick's and received a doctorate in Sacred Scripture May 25, 1995. He currently teaches biblical languages at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

Jack McNamara, meanwhile, followed in his father's footsteps. First elected to the Separate School Board in 1955, Jack continued on the board until it was ended by the Welland County Separate School Board in 1969. He served in several capacities, including chairman.

As Andrew Rosa helped lay the cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church 100 years ago, he and Elizabeth pledged to foster the life of the new Church.

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Father Craig Morrison O. Carm.



From left: Dan, Leonore and Father Craig Morrison



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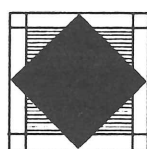


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The Lococo Family

The history of the Lococo family begins in a small town called Termini Immerse with the sea at the foot of the town and Mount Etna above it. Four Lococo brothers, Anthony, Philip, James and Michael and one sister, Mrs. Mary Pusateri and her husband Frank immigrated at various dates to Niagara Falls. Their uncle, Anthony Bova and wife Cosima, grandparents of Betty Dargie of this parish, had come first to Pittsburg and then on to Niagara Falls around 1880.

Sicily was a very depressed area and so, to have a better future, the Lococo brothers came to Niagara Falls with their aunt and uncle sponsoring them. The Lococo family was one of the first Italian families in St. Patrick's Church. Anthony, my grandfather was the first to arrive as a very young man in about 1890 with the other brothers and sister following him. As they saved enough money, they went back to Italy marrying and bringing their brides back. The records at St. Pat's show the first born of the next generation, Margaret (Pusateri) Campagna being baptized at St. Patrick's Church in 1894. The brothers and their brother-in-law, Frank Pusateri, set up their own produce business. Each man had his own area to cover with Philip Lococo taking care of the managing of the business and travelling to Buffalo to buy the produce.

The four families bought two houses on Park Street which at the time was a bustling area of town. Two families lived together in each house. My mother, Rose (Lococo) Campagna was born in one of these houses in 1898. In time, as they began to prosper, they moved and opened up their own businesses. My grandfather, Anthony Lococo and his wife Anna, opened a store on Queen Street, James and his wife, parents of Mary Branchley and Mickey Lococo of this parish, moved to Victoria Avenue opening up a store, Philip and his wife Loretta, remained on Park Street and Michael and his wife, Loretta, parents of Mary Harwood of this parish, moved to Victoria Avenue at the Centre, opening their own business. The Lococo's were the first Italian people in the City in the produce business. It has spanned three generations with Danny Lococo running the family business.

The offspring from the Lococo family numbered 27 children. All of these children attended St. Patrick's School and church. Many of the boys became altar servers and the girls marched in the processions through the Church. One of these children, became a priest, Fr. Anthony Lococo of the Basilian order and into the next generation, Fr. John Damato whose mother was Lena (Lococo) Damato, also became a Basilian priest. The families were all faithful parishioners actively involved in the life of the Church. My mother sang in the choir for over 50 years. I vividly remember as a little girl seeing my grandmother and great aunts kneeling in the church with their rosary beads. And the men of the family also were men of strong moral fiber. They possessed a simple, uncluttered sort of faith which was a great example to me and helped to mold my faith life.

As I stood with my husband and family during the Mass at the Homecoming day in July, I envisioned my grandfather and his brothers and sister who undoubtedly attended the first Mass in 1895. It was a moving experience for me, knowing that my family spans five generations in our wonderful church. Mary Harwood's father, Michael, told her that the Lococo family watched this great edifice being built - I wonder at the stories they must have told. My mother often spoke of their amazement at the size and grandeur of this new structure for a relatively small community. She marvelled at the foresight of the pastor.

Sometimes when I am in church, the realization hits me that most of us have been held over the baptismal font, walked up that long familiar aisle for First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, and the sobering fact that our loved ones have taken their final procession up the aisle with the rest of us following behind.

I have often thought how hard it must have been to come thousands of miles to another country, having no knowledge of the language. My ancestors were respected people and merchants who had a great many friends in the English community but there are always bigots in the world. I remember hearing a story about my grandmother going to the store to buy shoes for her children and some of the customers laughed at her broken English. Grandma was a fiesty woman and the lack of English did not stop her from vocalizing her frustration, spitting out the only swear word she undoubtedly knew, "Ma Solla ma beech."

I know that a lot of you have similar stories to tell and many memories of your families and I feel privileged to share our family story with you.

Ann Brazeau



The Anthony Lococo Family

circa 1905

Father Anthony seated, wife Anna holding baby Philip,
Rose (Campagna) standing, Lena (Damato) seated and Joe.



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The Loretto Sisters

The Loretto Sisters of Niagara Falls have been connected with St. Patrick's parish since the early 1890's. They replaced the Sisters of St. Joseph from Buffalo who had taught at the first Separate School in the parish from 1877 until about 1890.

There are still Loretto Sisters living elsewhere in Ontario and Saskatchewan who were principals or teachers in St. Patrick's School, who held catechism classes for children attending public schools, or who were involved in the parish as choir directors and in the numerous aspects of sacramental preparation.

During this centennial year of 1995 all of the Canadian Loretto Sisters, officially known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, extend congratulations and a promise of prayers to the people of God connected in any way to St. Patrick's Parish.

Who are these Loretto Sisters? Long-time parishioners know snippets of their history; some taught with them, others have known them as friends and co-workers.

Their Foundress was Mary Ward (1585 - 1645), a courageous English woman, who despite numerous hardships and failures, established a religious order of women to serve the needs of the Church in whatever ways were open to them. Today there are approximately 6,000 women in this order spread across the five continents of the world. Their ministries are more varied now: education and teaching, parish ministry, ministry to the sick and elderly, social ministries, work with the poor and the alienated in society...the list goes on. Part of the Institute's charism is to "respond to the needs of the time"; in a sense they are called to be where others are not; those needs will always be changing according to place and time.

In the mid 1800's the Catholic Church in Ontario needed religious men and women to provide Catholics with the opportunity of educating their children according to their religious beliefs. Thus in 1847 five Loretto Sisters arrived in Toronto from Ireland and began setting up schools across the province. By 1861, the far-sighted Archbishop John Lynch, invited this order of women to establish a Catholic school in Niagara Falls. He gave them the deed for the land on which Loretto Christian Life Centre now stands above the Falls.

The pioneer sisters originally lived in and held classes for children in what was then known as the "Canada House" - one of the many taverns available to travellers along the old Portage Road between Chippawa and Queenston.

After eight years in the converted tavern and annex, more space was needed if pupils were not to be denied a chance of education. The sale over the years of some of their land to the Canadian Southern Railway provided funds to build the present structure in three different stages. Loretto Academy as it was then known, later to be renamed Loretto High School, was a dominant factor in the establishment of Catholic education in Niagara Falls.

It was from Loretto Academy that sisters also went out daily to teach in various Catholic schools in the city. The first of these schools was St. Patrick's. The Loretto Sisters were the first to administer and teach in the old school which was completed in 1892. At that time part of the building was used for classrooms, the other part for parish activities and societies. Gradually all of the rooms, plus the four classrooms in the parish hall, constructed in 1927, were used for the ever growing population of the only Catholic Separate School in Niagara Falls.

In the early years almost all of the grades were taught by the Loretto Sisters. Gradually many devoted lay people joined the staff to be paid not much more than the few hundred dollars a year that each sister was paid.

It is to the credit of these faithful sisters and laity, as well as the priests and parishioners of St. Patrick's, that Catholic education had its beginnings. It is also to the credit of the members of the original Niagara Falls Separate School Board, most of whom were also parishioners of St. Patrick's, that Catholic education was able to flourish. These courageous and dedicated board members eventually established just wages for both the sisters and the laity. They were also responsible for building many new schools in the growing city to enable students to be within walking distance every day instead of travelling to St. Patrick's. St. Mary's School, still part of St. Patrick's Parish, was one of the first to be built to accomodate the students.

With the growth of schools in the 1950's and 60's, the Loretto Sisters were appointed to each of them either as principals or teachers.

Residents of Niagara Falls, living near St. Patrick's in the mid - 1900's might remember a taxi daily dropping off five or six sisters in long black habits to teach in either the school or the hall. Lay teachers and students alike might also remember the delicious smell of the sisters' noon day dinner being cooked in the school. One of the sisters had the daily task of doing this and making everyone's mouth drool!

By the 1970's with so many schools in the city to administer as principals, only a few Loretto Sisters remained at St. Patrick's. Sister Adele du Charme was the last Loretto Principal (1968) and Sister Louisa Seiferling was the last Loretto teacher (1978).

Nevertheless the Loretto presence at St. Patrick's continues in the person of Sister Carmen Diston who has been a Pastoral Assistant in the parish since 1985. A native of Niagara Falls, though not from St. Patrick's Parish or School, Sister Carmen still keeps alive the Loretto tradition of being connected with St. Patrick's Parish since the 1890's. Her role, as a member of the parish staff, centres mainly around preparation for sacraments, preparation of candidates and catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) and ministering to parishioners in whatever way possible.

Sister Carmen lives with six other Loretto Sisters who still administer Loretto Christian Life Centre above the Falls, a far cry from the forty-five sisters who used to be there. Like the sisters in the 1890's, she still leaves Loretto every day to carry out a ministry to the people of God in St. Patrick's Parish. Hopefully there will always be some link between Loretto and St. Patrick's.

Loretto today, no longer a school since 1982, operates as a retreat and educational centre to do its share to provide hospitality in keeping with the "Canada House" tradition of the 1800's. Instead of travellers looking for a place to sleep after a long journey, Loretto now offers a place for people of St. Catharine's Diocese and many other dioceses in Canada and the USA, for people of all faith and all ages, to share in the gift above the Falls that was given to them in 1861. The Centre is presently used for every possible opportunity of groups or individuals wanting, besides the particular purpose of their retreat, workshop, or educational purpose, to enjoy the beauties of nature afforded by the glory of the Falls.

In keeping with the Loretto / St. Patrick's connection, it is the hope and prayer of the Loretto Sisters that St. Patrick's Parish will continue to stand as a beacon of hospitality and spiritual comfort to the people of Niagara Falls.

Sister Mary Kay Camp I.B.V.M.



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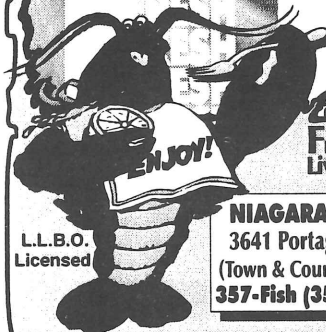
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Catholic Women's League St. Patrick's Parish

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Patrick's Church, women throughout the country are also celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

St. Patrick's joined with the CWL of Canada April 2, 1952, when the Altar Society dissolved. His Excellency, Bishop Webster, was the principal speaker and a motion to form a new division was made by Mrs. J. Foy and seconded by Mrs. William Brozon. A motion was also made that the officers of the Altar Society carry on as the first executive.

The first president was Angela Kelly, the first vice president Ethel Collier, second vice president Regis White, third vice president Catharine Blakely and treasurer Doreen Rose. Secretaries were Marie Dawson and Ann Corcoran.

Bishop Webster congratulated the new president and presented her with her official pin and gavel. Director Fr. Angelus Osborne added his congratulations. Mrs. Collier informed the membership that dues should be set at \$1.30 a year from April to March. Thirty cents was the per capita tax. In all, 231 names were entered into the charter membership in 1952.

Fund-raising projects over the years have included the annual bazaar, penny bingo, flea markets, Valentine Card parties, fashion shows, spaghetti dinners and sale of cook books, among other events. These successful events enabled the CWL to generously donate six scholarships to the Catholic schools within the parish. The league also donates to 20 charities and missions.

The CWL is justifiably proud of its work. During the Year of the Handicapped, an elevator was installed in the parish hall. Following that, a complete new kitchen was also donated. The beautiful statue of the risen Christ was presented another year. Financial donations towards the Bishop's taxes, the new organ and the roof were also included. In the past two years, the CWL donated a central vacuum for the church, donated towards a dishwasher, bought new dishes, new hymnals, replaced the cross on the church steeple, and provided for new altar cloths and vestments for the 100th anniversary celebration.

The CWL also does much volunteer work in the community, such as visiting the sick, acting as Eucharistic ministers, choir members and preparing funeral luncheons. Receptions following confirmation and reconciliation celebrations are also on the agenda, along with Easter Bread blessing after Holy Saturday and delivering cookies to shut-ins at Christmas and Easter. The CWL also participates in the World Day of Prayer, the Day of Recollection, Retreat and Spring Conference. The membership in 1995 is 180.

The present members and those in the past do and have done this all for God and country.

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Doreen Rose	Marie Cadman	Rose Lalonde
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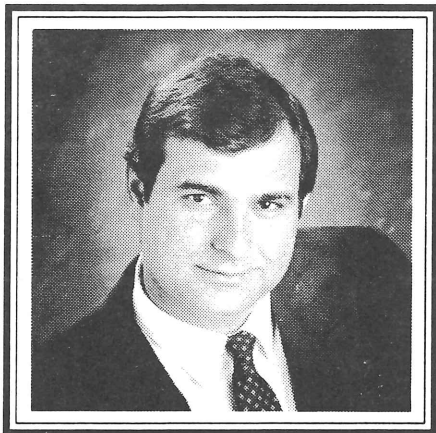
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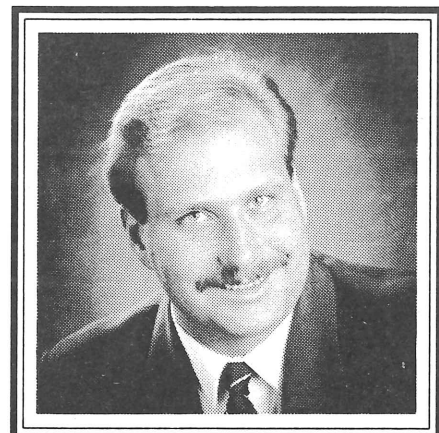
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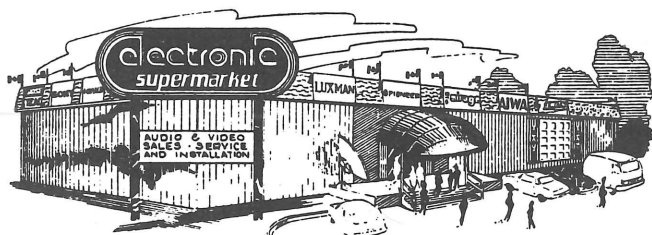
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Shamrock and Catholic Social Clubs

In the 1940's and 1950's, St. Patrick's Parish was like a second home for many of the youth, with social evenings, amateur nights, plays, dances and baseball and basketball teams, along with such other sporting events as ping pong tournaments for all age groups.

The Junior Catholic Social Club encompassed the 13 to 15 age group, Senior CSC was for the 16 to 18 year olds and the Shamrock Club was for single adults 18 years of age and older. Meetings were held each week during the fall and winter months and one of the parish priests would serve as both chaplain and chaperone.

The clubs elected their officers, committee heads were chosen and committees struck. The membership was usually divided into four or six groups, depending on the attendance, and each week a different group was in charge of entertainment following the meetings, or for special occasions. These included skits and games, and everyone took part, which encouraged the next group to think of bigger and better things for the next meeting.

Everyone learned parliamentary procedure, how to conduct themselves at a meeting, how to keep financial records and present reports and plan and organize activities. A juke box was the group's prized possession and everyone learned to dance and participate.

Social skills were a valuable part of the junior clubs, along with meeting new friends not only from the parish, but from St. Catharines, Welland, Port Colborne and other areas. Bowling, ping-pong tournaments and a Catholic Youth Conference in Buffalo were some of the inter-parish activities.

Sunday nights, starting in the 1940's, were meeting nights for the Shamrock Club because nothing in Ontario was open Sunday at that time. In the late 1940's and 1950's, a Sunday evening movie meant a walk or ride to Niagara Falls, N.Y. because even the theatres were closed on the Ontario side.

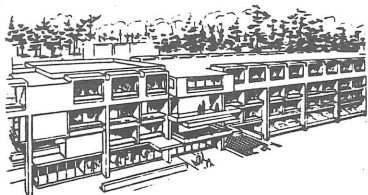
Besides the sports teams involved in the parish, the Shamrock Club had bowling teams which would bowl Wednesday nights. Summer Sundays meant a trip to Long Beach on Lake Erie, where the club would meet, have picnics, swim and play ball.

Friday nights in the parish hall, dances with live bands were held for young adults from Niagara Falls and the surrounding communities. Many lasting friendships were formed, and it was a way for people who had come to the city to work, to attain a social life. The hydro project in the early 1950's brought many young people to Niagara Falls for jobs. Companies like Cyanamid, Carborundum and Norton were thriving and hiring university graduates who came to the city and the St. Patrick's Friday night dance was the place to meet new friends and help out - of - towners feel welcome.

St. Patrick's Day dances were held each year on March 17. During that time no dances were held during Lent and the parish was given special permission to hold the dance in honour of its patron saint. These were formal affairs, with live orchestras and were one of the highlights of a winter in Niagara Falls. Likewise, New Year's Eve was always a wonderful party, with people scrambling for tickets months in advance. During the late 1950's, there were some years when the party would go so late that the parish priests would celebrate Mass in the church at 4 a.m. so everyone could go home and not worry about coming to Mass during the daylight hours!

During 1958 and 1959, some 33 couples who met at the Shamrock Club were married, and many remain in the parish today.

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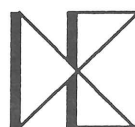
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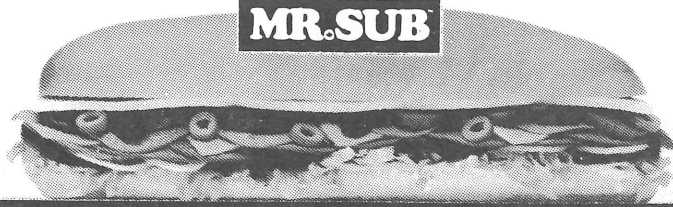
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The Church Choir

Over the past 100 years, St. Patrick's has been graced with the talents of many dedicated musicians.

Mrs. Gertrude Bradley, who lived just steps from the church, served as organist for many years while Mrs. Annie O'Rourke - Drago, Miss Margaret Drago and Mrs. Helen Foy also filled in during that time.

From the early 1940's Mr. Paul Morey directed the choir while serving as organist, and it was during this time a "new" used pipe organ replaced the original.

During the many years students lived at Mount Carmel, Holy Week was a special time for the parishioners of St. Patrick's. The young men dressed in the Carmelite habit would add to the ceremony, with their beautiful songs and chants. During the recitation of the Tenebrae, a huge candelabra, fully lit, would be extinguished one candle at a time, as each musical section ended. One candle would remain and be removed by one of the Fraters to signify Christ's death. The young priest - to - be would then, in the darkened church, bang their prayer - books on the pews to simulate the earthquake following Christ's death. Many in the church looked forward to this event each year.

In the early 1960's, Mr. Morey moved away and Miss Eunice Leahey took over the duties of music director. Father Bruce Lardie and Father Emeric Carmody helped lead the choir in songs from Gregorian Chants to more modern works.

After a short stay by Nancy Jemarco, Maureen Chamberlain took over as organist with Carol Martin as music director. Many hours of practice produced selections from Handel's Messiah as special music for Christmas and Easter celebrations.

Colleen Brazeau took over the duties of a children's choir director and in time, an ensemble of teens were responsible for leading the music at Mass each week.

It was during this time the newest organ was built around the rose window. Jim Lawrence, along with Joe Futino from Mount Carmel, built the woodwork around the present organ. A choir member at this time also presented the church with a beautiful ebony-finish grand piano, which was used during Christmas and spring concerts.

Dr. Peter Landey now continues the tradition of St. Patrick's choir directors in the hopes that the next 100 years finds the congregation joining in to "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things." (Psalm 78)

Carol Martin



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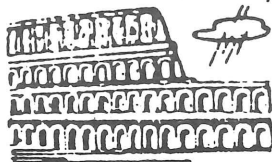
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Sports at St. Patrick's

I have many fond memories of life around St. Pat's as a child and teenager. It seemed in that time that our life revolved around the parish. One day in grade 7 or 8, Fr. Claude Engemann came to the school and asked if anyone would be interested in playing in a basketball league. He didn't need to ask me twice. From then on I was hooked on basketball, playing until after my marriage. To this day when I walk through the gym those times come flooding back and I want to dribble that ball and go for a lay up.

There were many other men's and ladies' leagues in the parish. The hall was a bustling place with basketball being played most nights of the week. And we had no shortage of fans. We always had a cheering section comprised of many people and there were many times that it was standing room only with the balcony and back of the gym being full. St. Pat's was the place to be and it didn't matter whether you were Catholic or of another denomination.

Our Church had a reputation as having the teams to beat. We played other churches in the City and all around the peninsula going as far as Toronto, Chatham, Sarnia and Windsor. Many of our teams went on to win All Ontario. The Intermediate girls' team coached by Eddie Mallett won the Eastern Canadian championship beating out Verdun, Quebec. St. Pat's captured many championships in the Jr. A, Jr. B, Intermediate A, Intermediate B, and Senior B. In 1956 the team on which I played, Jr. B, won the All Ontario championship in Windsor. I'll never forget the excitement and tension during and at the end of that close match. And the heartbreak at the time that we lost the championship by two points. We took our basketball very seriously. Our coach at that time was Joan Susin who went on to join the Precious Blood sisters and is now serving in Africa. Joan was an excellent player who could outplay many of the men.

There was a strong rivalry between St. Pat's and Mount Carmel. It seems that we could never come out on top against them. Fr. Brian McCulloch was the coach of the teenage boys and Fr. Malachy of the older boys. Mt. Carmel always played on their home court - the students were on a "short leash." Because of this, they controlled the clock and chose the officials. More than once, as Carl Decicco might testify, St. Pat's came home mumbling, "We were robbed!". Incidentally, Fr. Ben was one of those seminarians who moved faster then than he does now.

Being a thriving sports centre, St. Pat's also had a couple of baseball teams at various times. There was a boys and girls team coached by my father, Joe Campagna. We played the various churches in the area and our home ballpark was over in the school yard, typical sand lot baseball. Needless to say, we had a great time throughout the summer playing on these teams.

For those who were less competitive, there was badminton played by members of the Shamrock Club having lots of fun, getting exercise and lining up dates.

I'm sure a great number of us thought of St. Pat's gym as our second home and there were a few romances begun there and at the C.S.C., one of which was my husband's and mine. Like the song sung by the Four Lads said: "We will have these moments to remember."

Ann Brazeau

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Thomas F. Mulligan
John Odaisky
Olsiak & Kulesh Families
Maria Palesch
Trabucco & Schankula Families

HETHERINGTON & DEANS
Funeral Service

GARTH TUSTIN

Jack Deans

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On Their
1st One Hundred Years

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



From Left

Joe McMahon - Chairman
David Van Velzen - Fund Raising
Betty Trabucco - Homecoming
Father Ben Hogan - Pastor
Jim Moody - Projects
Ann Brazeau - Secretary
Betty Sargeson - Entertainment

HOMECOMING COMMITTEE



From Left

Sam Martin, Pat Simon, Vilma Gallina, Dora Spencer, Carol Martin,
Reno Martin, Betty Trabucco - Chairperson, John Olsiak, Ange Martin,
Wally McLaughlin, Leonore Morrison, Norm Tubbe, Dan Morrison

Absent

Pat Armstrong
Jim Mulligan
Larry Martin
Jim Wallace

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



From Left

Ray Sexton
Betty Sargeson, Chairperson
Ed Nieuwesteeg
Teresa Kellendonk

Absent

Cathy Crabbe
Ferrugio Forte

PROJECTS COMMITTEE



From Left

Dr. Bill Cooper
Boris Dimitroff
Mary Dimitroff
Yvonne Pagani
Joe Downes

Absent

Jim Moody, Chairman
Dennis Schafer

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE



From Left

Moirra Cooper
Vilma Gallina
Father Lambert, Chairman
Carol Martin
Peter Landey

Absent

Sister Carmen
Jack Simpson

FUND RAISING



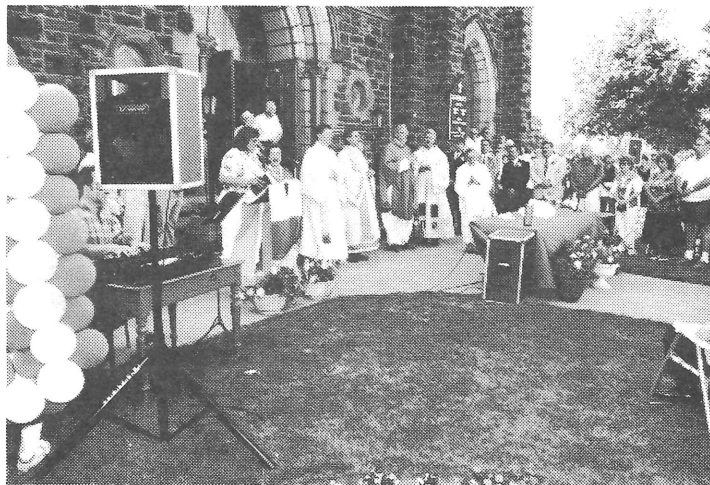
From Left

Bill Amadio
Frances Williams
Norm Tubbe

Absent

David Van Velzen, Chairman
Harold Mancini
Pat Hudson
Dan Morrison
Ray Sexton

The Homecoming Mass July 15, 1995



From Left

Fr. Joe O'Brien, Fr. Stan Mackacinas, Fr. Ben Hogan, Fr. Craig Morrison, Fr. Lambert Zulkie

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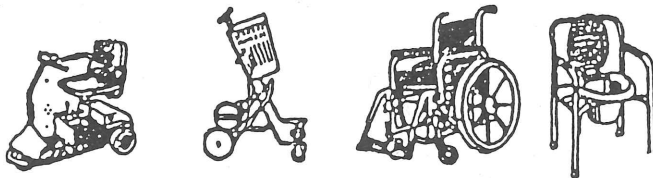
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*Gratitude for the 1st 100
Blessings
for the second 100.*

Happy Anniversary

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Ronald & Suzette Buckner
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Betty Chalmers
Dora Coyle
Mary Giampolo Darling
Debsan Construction
Frank & Rose DeLazzer
Boris & Mary Dimitroff
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J. Hubert Doyle
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Louis (Chick) & Vilma Gallina
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Darryl, Margaret & Pat Hudson
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Eunice T. Leahey
Carol Martin
Reno & Angela Martin
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Mascarin
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Joe & Bunny McMahon & Family
Bert & Pauline Miner
Dan & Lee Morrison & Family
Edward & Mary Jane Mulligan & Children
J. Terry Mulligan
Mrs. Patrick Mulligan Jr.
Mrs. Thomas Mulligan
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Danny & Betty Trabucco & Family
Helen Wallace
Chester Weiler
Charles & Maria Williams
Frances Williams
Rose Vukmanich

Appreciation

There are hundreds of people I would like to thank for their considerable assistance in arranging and carrying out the various functions held and planned in this centennial year, but time and space will allow for only a few names.

Most important are the five committees who have done so much. They are chaired by:

Father Lambert Zulkie -- Liturgical

Mrs. Betty Trabucco -- Homecoming

Mrs. Betty Sargeson -- Entertainment

Mr. James Moody -- Projects

Mr. David Van Velzen -- Fund Raising

Mayor Wayne Thomson and City Council were of the utmost assistance in the many municipal requests particularly for the homecoming. We also received help from Chairman Brian Merrett of the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Three parishioners must be singled out for particular contributions. They are:

Pat Simon with his ever present camera,

Mrs. Ann Brazeau who has handled the mountain of secretarial duties and details as well as serving on the Executive Committee,

Jim Wallace who wrote the history included herein and also assisted in editing this souvenir booklet.

Appreciation is also extended to the many advertisers and patrons who have made the publication of this book possible.

To those who have contributed articles for the book and to all who have participated in this centennial year - I simply say - THANK YOU!

Joe McMahon, Chairman
Centennial Committee

Sept. 1995